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is slow to give title but in some places is granting one and a quarter square miles free to prospective citizens who will build a house and begin cultivation. With a railroad, prosperity will be immediate, and Captain Vallentin fears the *English* will build it. MARK JEFFERSON.

The Flowing Road. Adventuring on the Great Rivers of South America. By Caspar Whitney. 319 pp. Maps, ill., index. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1912. \$3. 9 x 6.

This book is a narrative of adventures on several rivers of South America, notably the Orinoco, with its tributaries, the Portuguesa, Apure and Casiquiare; the Rio Negro, of the Amazon system; and the Salado and Feliciano, of the Paraná system. Incidents of land trips in the llanos of Venezuela, forests of Brazil, and Argentine pampas, are also told briefly. There is a closing chapter on outfitting for jungle travel, which contains much sound advice.

The narrative deals chiefly with the interior of Venezuela, in the section where the Orinoco and Amazon tributaries interlock and are linked. The things told are the incidents of travel through a wild region, and the abundance of interesting items of natural history which the practical observer gathers in such a journey. Descriptions of the natives and their ways of living are perhaps the most valuable items among the many that are recorded. As a result, the reader is given a rather full idea of the conditions prevailing in the upper valleys of the Orinoco system. The pleasing style, for which the author is already well known, is found fully as effective here as in any of his other books. There are numerous good illustrations.

WALTER S. TOWER.

AFRICA

The Temple of Deudûr. Par Aylward M. Blackman. In series: Les Temples Immergés de la Nubie. Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte. 114 pp. Ills., indices. Imprimerie de l'Inst. Français d'Archéol. Orientale, Cairo, 1911. 348 piastres. 14 x 10.

This handsome volume, in which both the text and illustrations are by Mr. Blackman, is one of a special series brought out by the Department of Antiquities in Egypt. The studies comprised in that series are devoted to the description of temples a little south of Aswan which are threatened by the raising of the great dam. They are intended to be technical and exhaustive, so that even the more intelligent of winter tourists will scarcely care to attack them, but the professed Egyptologist will be grateful to the Government for the closeness and accuracy of its records.

Mr. Blackman is one of the younger Oxford Egyptologists, and had every reason to feel highly complimented when Sir Gaston Maspero selected him to execute this important work. He has performed his task with conscientiousness and care, and the volume is fully equal in quality to any of its predecessors. Of the 120 pages of photographic illustrations all come up to a relatively high standard, while many are conspicuously good. The hieroglyphic texts are well reproduced and the descriptive letterpress is skilfully interwoven with them. The printer has generally been kind, though the spelling "eface" and "sovrán" show that his mastery of English was imperfect; and his choice of type for numerals was genuinely unfortunate. The inconsistency between the spelling of "Dendûr" in the letterpress and "Dandour" on the plates should also have been avoided.

The author takes every scene in the temple and describes it minutely, according to a set schematic form. Every inscription is reproduced in the conventional hieroglyphic transcription, a difficult and laborious task which those who have attempted it will appreciate. It needs a very highly trained and experienced scholar to detect the original readings on a blurred and worn stone. Even a Lepsius has made many a blunder, and the copies of more than one famous philologist are almost useless, so that the whole value of such work as this depends upon the personal qualifications of the individual. The present reviewer, who has spent many a day with Mr. Blackman under

the Nubian sun, is able to certify that his copies have been made with the greatest care, and the honors which this young student has already received from his University are a sufficient guarantee of his linguistic accomplishments.

D. RANDALL-MACIVER.

Through Timbuctu and Across the Great Sahara. An account of an adventurous journey of exploration from Sierra Leone to the source of the Niger, following its course to the bend at Gao and thence across the Great Sahara to Algiers. By Capt. A. H. W. Haywood. 349 pp. Map, ills., index. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1912. \$3.50. 9 x 6.

The journey began at Freetown, and the first stage was made by the Sierra Leone R.R. to Pendembu; then followed the long trail to Gao, part of which was by caravan and part by river craft, and finally from Gao across the Sahara to Biskra by means of the camel. The second stage of the journey through the western Sudan was taken leisurely, and as the best hunting grounds of the trip were here, the book contains many accounts of the exploits of the sportsman. The chapters are full, too full in fact, of detail of every character: cotton growing, secret societies, marriage customs, bush fires, bird life, native music, tribal marks, superstitions, smuggling; so that the reader is turned first in one direction and then in another, with but a fleeting glimpse of each picture, until at the end he finds that while he has been highly entertained, he has no strong impression, as the result of his reading. The desert trip, a distance of nearly 1,600 miles, which was covered in seventy-five days, is more faithfully described.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

Notes on Some Languages of the Western Sudan, including 24 unpublished vocabularies of Barth, extracts, from correspondence regarding Richardson's and Barth's expeditions, and a few Hausa riddles and proverbs. By P. Askeff Benton. viii and 304 pp. Oxford University Press, London, 1912. 7s. 6d. 7 x 5.

A most agreeable surprise lies within this little volume, a store of hitherto unpublished details of the expeditions of Richardson and Barth into Africa south of the Barbary States. The author has had the opportunity to ransack the state papers of the Record Office in London and has unearthed a very considerable mass of information which will be found extremely illuminative of the conditions of these expeditions. This will be found of particular value as filling in the gaps of Barth's narrative. At the time when his work was published there were reasons in external polity why some of his information should be withheld, but no attempt was made to preserve for future use this omitted material. These memoranda, many of them not intended for publication, contain much which it did not then suit the British authorities to allow to be made known. When applied to their proper places in Barth's narrative it will be seen that this new information is a valuable supplement.

The linguistic material varies widely in importance. It comprises more or less complete records of 172 words in twenty-four languages of inner Africa, and has hitherto never been accessible. Some of these languages have received more extended treatment by later explorers. Others have been overlaid by the recent encroachments of the trade language of the Hausa, and in the greater convenience of the latter the vernacular has become obsolete.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

ASIA

A Half Century Among the Siamese and the Lāo. An Autobiography. By Daniel McGilvary. 435 pp. Map, ills., index. Fleming H. Revell, New York, 1912. \$2. 8½ x 5½.

Here is no pretence of geographical record, a matter with which this pioneer missionary concerned himself not at all. But just because he was a missionary he felt called upon to pioneer along paths which led him to inner and north Siam, even to its border. Just because his journeys were filled with difficulty he was forced to observe the difficulties and the causes from which they arose, and when observed and accounted for they were recorded in his journals.